



The surge capacity for people in emergencies (scope) study in Australasian hospitals

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Year: 2007
Journal: The Medical Journal of Australia. 186 (8): 394-398

Abstract:

OBJECTIVES: To measure physical assets in Australasian hospitals required for the management of mass casualties as a result of terrorism or natural disasters. **DESIGN and SETTING:** A cross-sectional survey of Australian and New Zealand hospitals. **PARTICIPANTS:** All emergency department directors of Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM)-accredited hospitals, as well as private and non-ACEM accredited emergency departments staffed by ACEM Fellows in metropolitan Sydney. **MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES:** Numbers of operating theatres, intensive care unit (ICU) beds and x-ray machines; state of preparedness using benchmarks defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States. **RESULTS:** We found that 61%-82% of critically injured patients would not have immediate access to operative care, 34%-70% would have delayed access to an ICU bed, and 42% of the less critically injured would have delayed access to x-ray facilities. **CONCLUSIONS:** Our study demonstrates that physical assets in Australasian public hospitals do not meet US hospital preparedness benchmarks for mass casualty incidents. We recommend national agreement on disaster preparedness benchmarks and periodic publication of hospital performance indicators to enhance disaster preparedness.

Source: Ask your librarian to help locate this item.

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Australasia



Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury, Morbidity/Mortality

Medical Community Engagement:

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified